United Nations S/2002/718

Security Council

Distr.: General
2 July 2002
English
Original: French

Letter dated 1 July 2002 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to bring to the attention of the Security Council the most recent developments that have taken place in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

On Saturday, 29 June 2002, the day before the festivities marking the 42nd anniversary of the Democratic Republic of the Congo's independence and accession to national sovereignty, Rwanda and the Rassemblement congolais pour la démocratie (RCD-Goma) militarily invested the town of Pweto, two days after a joint mission of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) and the Joint Military Commission of the Agreement on a ceasefire in the Democratic Republic of the Congo had gone there.

The Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo calls on the Security Council to express condemnation of the seizure of Pweto by the Rwandan and RCD-Goma forces, in that it constitutes a new violation of the ceasefire, of the relevant resolutions of the Security Council on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and more particularly resolution 1399 (2002) of 19 March 2002, and of the Kampala plan and the Harare sub-plans for disengagement and redeployment, which defined the town of Pweto as one of the new defensive positions assigned to the FAC (Forces armées congolaises) and allies.

In addition, the seizure of Pweto also constitutes a failure to respect the decisions of the Political Committee of the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement; the Committee, whose membership includes both Rwanda and RCD-Goma, had already called, at its meeting of 22 March 2002, for withdrawal and the demilitarization of the town of Pweto.

In other words, all the signatories of the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement, including Rwanda and RCD-Goma, agree in recognizing that Pweto is to be demilitarized and that it is a declared position of the Government. Consequently, my Government shares the view of the United Nations, which considers that it should send police forces and a civil administration there in conformity with the Kampala Disengagement Plan and emphasizes the need for the parties concerned to transfer Pweto forthwith to the central administration.

My Government notes that the seizure of Pweto by Rwanda and RCD-Goma corresponds to a planned scheme aimed at putting all the peace processes in the

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region in check and perpetuating the state of constant conflict in order to satisfy base mercantile interests.

The recent incendiary statements made to the press by Rwandan government authorities bear witness to the execution of this scheme.

For example, the President of Rwanda recently stated that he was going to crush the "revolt" of the Banyamulenge in the Kivu high plateaux, which let it be noted are in the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Thus Rwanda is creating a war within the war for which it is responsible and openly proclaiming itself the main obstacle to peace in this region.

Moreover, an adviser close to the Rwandan President, by the name of Mazimhaka, has had the audacity to state in public that any movement of government troops in the part of the national territory already reunified thanks to the Sun City agreement would be regarded as an act of war.

Lastly, what is one to make of the Rwandan Government's relentless opposition to the establishment in Kinshasa of an office of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, when the tribunal was established precisely to try persons presumed responsible for acts of genocide or other serious violations of international humanitarian law committed in Rwandan territory, and Rwandan citizens presumed responsible for such acts or violations committed in the territory of neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994. In other words, everything suggests that Rwanda is opposed to the Arusha Tribunal prosecuting persons sought by that country, some of whom have had a price put on their head by a third nation.

Unless the Security Council takes against Rwanda and RCD-Goma all the measures that could be imposed on them in conformity with the responsibilities and obligations placed on it under the Charter of the United Nations, there will be an increase in the number of statements of this kind and of such acts as the harassment to which MONUC personnel have been subjected or, worse, the extra-judicial executions of RCD-Goma troops in Kalemie or the brutal, planned and blind repression at Kisangani on 14 May 2002.

With regard to this latter point, in respect of which the role of Rwanda and RCD-Goma no longer appears to be in any doubt whatsoever, my Government expects the Security Council to discuss the next report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights seriously, determine the responsibilities and take appropriate measures.

The killings at Kisangani and the seizure of the town of Pweto are the most recent actions in a series of manoeuvres by Rwanda and RCD-Goma aimed at halting the entire peace process initiated by the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement. They are manifestly aimed not only at the resumption of hostilities in order to perpetuate the occupation, but above all, they constitute a clumsy attempt on their part to conceal the illegal exploitation of the natural resources and other wealth of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in violation of its national sovereignty, as well as the other illicit trafficking of all kinds in which they are engaging and which supplies their war effort at lesser expense.

My Government considers that the Security Council should put an end to the actions of Rwanda and RCD-Goma in the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

My Government therefore calls on the Security Council to:

1. Strongly condemn the seizure of the town of Pweto;

2. Demand the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of the Rwandan and RCD-Goma troops from the town of Pweto which Rwanda and RCD-Goma are occupying in violation of the Kampala plan and the Harare sub-plans for disengagement and redeployment;

3. Demand that Rwanda and RCD-Goma discharge in all respects their obligations to cooperate with MONUC and to ensure the protection of all members of its personnel;

4. Demand that Rwanda and RCD-Goma demilitarize the town of Kisangani and its environs without delay in conformity with resolution 1304 (2000);

5. Consider transforming the mandate of MONUC into an intervention force, given the seriousness and extent of the disaster the Congolese people is unjustly enduring because of the armed aggression and also in order to provide a sense of security for all along the common frontier and compel the aggressors, by all mechanisms provided for in the Charter of the United Nations, to withdraw from Congolese territory.

My Government invites the Council to take action on this letter, and requests you to have it distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Atoki **Ileka**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative